

News Release

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Deadline Drawing Near for Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture Symposium

Bozeman, MT – The deadline to register for the seventh annual Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture Symposium is Sept. 20th. The Symposium will be held Oct. 2-3, 2007, at the Beaverhead Golf Course in Dillon. Early registration is \$50 due and late registration following September 20 is \$60.

An exciting agenda has been developed for this year's conference. The keynote speaker for the symposium is Dr. Ronald Hanson, Department of Agricultural Economics at the University of Nebraska. Hanson will share his expertise in communicating effectively with family members and farm employees. His presentation will focus directly on improving the communications between individual family members by overcoming the human communication barriers that we often create ourselves. Additional presentations will range from water rights issues across the state, biosecurity at the ranch, raising and marketing natural beef, carbon sequestration, what the future holds for renewable fuels and protecting yourself in rural areas.

Registration fees may be sent to Heidi Brewer, PO Box 670, Bozeman, MT 59771. Checks may be written to the Montana Agri-Women – WSF. A detailed agenda is available by logging on to the Montana Farm Service Agency (FSA) website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt>.

Rooms have been reserved at the following motels in Dillon. When registering, mention you are with the Women's Agriculture Group:

- Best Western Paradise Inn, 406/683-4214, \$55 + tax
- Comfort Inn (15 rooms), 406/683-6831, \$65 + tax
- Guest House Inn (25 rooms), 406/683-3636, \$69 + tax
- Sundowner Motel (10 rooms), 406/683-2375, \$48 + tax
- Super 8 Motel (10 rooms), 406/683-4288, \$50 + tax

The Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture Symposium is sponsored by the State Food and Agriculture Council and the Montana Agri-Women, Montana Farm Bureau Women, Women Involved in Farm Economics (WIFE), and the Montana Cattlewomen. The symposium provides a platform for women involved in the promotion of Montana's agriculture to learn of issues affecting rural agricultural communities, promote leadership development, and further support women's leadership roles.

An agenda including the registration form is available at all USDA service centers, by logging on to the FSA website, or by contacting any of the sponsoring agriculture organizations listed above. For further questions, please contact Heidi Brewer, FSA Public Affairs Specialist, 406/587-6905.